(ii) Substantial reduction in Internet, International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) and Internet Service Providers (ISP) tariffs as compared to tariffs prevailing in the same period of last year.

(c) VSNL is expanding its Internet Service and planning to enter National Long Distance (NLD) service to generate additional revenues.

Working of T.E.C.

3876 SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert Telecom Engineer Centre into an Autonomous Information Communication and Entertainment Standards Institute of India to face the challenges of the post liberalisation era;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar has been constituted to review working of T.E.C.;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The report of the above Committee has just been received on 23rd of August, 2001 (in the evening). The above report is under examination by the Government.

Payment of Telephone Bills at Syndicate Bank, Ghaziabad

†3877. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some branches of Syndicate Bank were authorised to accept payments of all types of telephone bills for the convenience of customers by the BSNL in Ghaziabad;

(b) whether this facility has now been withdrawn;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this facility is likely to be restored; and

(d) whether Government would introduce the same facility in some other banks also alongwith Syndicate Bank in view of the long queues of customers depositing the bills on the counters of the Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. 25 branches of Syndicate Bank were so authorised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) It is the policy of BSNL to encourage all Nationalised banks to collect Telephone bills to help the subscribers.

Creation of Posts on DOT norms

3878. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether justification proposals for creation of posts of Accounts Officers based on DoT norms is pending in MTNL for a long time thereby denying promotions while same year recruited personnel are getting the officiating/*ad hoc* promotions in BSNL; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to make it automatic to create posts on DoT norms on sending the justifications and to divest the same from the MTNL Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is a Public Sector Undertaking, empowered to follow its own norms for the creation of posts. *With effect from* 1.10.2000, the operational arm of the Department of Telecom, was corporatised into another public sector undertaking, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, which is also entitled to its own norms for the creation of posts. The MTNL has intimated that no proposal for creating posts of Accounts Officer is pending for approval at this time. As regards grant of officiating promotion to the grade of Accounts Officer, such arrangements are made by the units, based on local administrative needs. *Ad-hoc* promotions on the other hand, are done on All-India seniority and there is no discrimination between MTNL and BSNL.

(b) In view of the powers of the PSU, no steps are being proposed by the Government.